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Message Text

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15
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

OMB-01 /071 W
---------- 080069
R 110335Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8899
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 5955

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, PFOR, EG, PK, AF
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT DAOUD INTERVIEWED BY EGYPTIAN JOURNALIST

REF: KABUL 5864

1. AUGUST 5 EDITION OF KABUL TIMES CARRIED TRANS-
CRIPTION/TRANSLATION OF RECENT (UNDATED) INTERVIEW OF
PRESIDENT DAOUD BY EGYPTIAN JOURNALIST JAMIL AREF.
INTERVIEW IS LONG ON CULTURAL BONDS AND REMINISCENCES
(AREF ACCOMPANIED NASSER TO KABUL 21 YEARS AGO), BUT
BREAKS NO NEW GROUND. DOUD DID, HOWEVER?: MAKE
STATEMENTS ON NON-ALIGNMENT, THE COLOMBO SUMMIT, AND
HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO ISLAMABAD.

2. IN RESPONSE TO LENGTHY QUESTIONS ON NON-
ALIGNMENT, DAOUD'S ANSWERS WERE TERSE BUT CONSISTENT
WITH POSITIONS TAKEN IN JOINT COMMUNIQUES ISSUED DURING
JULY VISITS OF INDIRA GANDHI AND INDONESIAN
FON MIN MALIK (KABUL 5267, 5304). ASKED IF THOSE
VISITS RELATED TO "GIVING NEUTRALITY A GREATER DEPTH",
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DAOUD INDICATED INCOMPREHENSION, STATED THAT

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NEUTRALITY IS ALWAYS THE SAME THING, AND REFERRED JOURNALIST TO BANDUNG AND BELGRADE CONFERENCES. IN RESPONSE TO LENGTHY "QUESTION" ABOUT ROMANIAN UNSUITABILITY FOR NAM MEMBERSHIP, DAOUD SIMPLY STATED THAT THE DEFINITION OF NON-ALIGNMENT IS CLEAR.

3. JOURNALIST EXPRESSED EGYPT'S PLEASURE THAT PAKISTANI P.M. BHUTTO HAD VISITED AFGHANISTAN AND THAT TALKS TOWARD IMPROVED RELATIONS TOOK PLACE. HE ASKED IF DAOUD WILL VISIT PAKISTAN AFTER ATTENDING THE COLOMBO SUMMIT, AND HOW THE TALKS WILL DEAL WITH SENSITIVE ISSUE OF "PUSHTUN AND BALUCH PEOPLES' PROBLEMS." DAOUD STATED THAT HE WOULD ATTEND COLOMBO IF POSSIBLE AND WOULD VISIT PAKISTAN ON HIS RETURN "IF THE ATMOSPHERE WERE FAVORABLE." HE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY COMMENT ON PUSHTUN AND BALUCH QUESTION AND IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUERY STATED THE RESUMPTION OF AIR LINKS BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN HAD NOT YET BEEN DISCUSSED.

4. COMMENT: INTERVIEW PROVIDED FIRST AFGHAN VEHICLE FOR PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT THAT DAOUD WOULD PROBABLY ATTEND COLOMBO SUMMIT AND VISIT PAKISTAN ON HIS RETURN. REFTEL REPORTED INFORMATION SUBSEQUENT TO PUBLICATION OF INTERVIEW THAT DAOUD MIGHT NOT ATTEND COLOMBO. HOWEVER, DEP. FON. MIN ABDULLAH TOLD AMBASSADOR PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR COLOMBO AUGUST 9 THAT IT WAS ONCE AGAIN "80 PCT." CERTAIN THAT PRESIDENT DAOUD WOULD ATTEND COLOMBO SUMMIT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES, JOURNALISTS, NONALIGNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KABUL05955
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760308-0631
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760865/aaaacetn.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 KABUL 5864
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <14 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT DAOUD INTERVIEWED BY EGYPTIAN JOURNALIST
TAGS: PORG, PFOR, EG, PK, AF, (DAOUD, MOHAMMAD), (AREF, JAMIL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006